



Prince William Forest Park

Your Entrance Fees: Helping Us To Help You

Prince William Forest Park is a unit of the National Park Service, which offers many opportunities for recreation and education. There is an entrance fee of \$5.00 per car. For frequent visitors (such as those who live nearby) an Annual Pass can be purchased for \$20.00.

The Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, which runs through 2003, allows each park to retain 80% of the fees it collects. The other 20% goes to a region-wide fund. The program was established when Congress passed two laws: the Omnibus Consolidated Recissions and Appropriations Act of 1996; and the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997.

Prince William Forest Park has used this source of funding to bring about a variety of improvements and new projects. At Oak Ridge Campground, which accommodates individual families in tents and small RVs (up to 32'), fee revenues allowed the installation of energy-efficient electrical and plumbing fixtures, showers, and an accessible site. At Turkey Run Ridge, a tent-camping facility utilized by organized groups, fee-funded modifications include energy-efficient fixtures, an accessible site, and upgraded restroom facilities.



The pavilion at Pine Grove Picnic Area is a popular site for daytime group gatherings of many types. While there is no fee to use it, it is available on a first-come, first-served, basis only. The newly constructed pavilion at Telegraph Road Picnic Area may be reserved by paying a user fee.

Other improvements made possible because of user fees include: upgraded bathroom facilities at some of our cabin camp units; and an accessible trail (built with environmentally-friendly materials) at Oak Ridge Campground. The trail leads visitors to the park's amphitheater, where rangers present educational campfire programs.

Fee dollars received this past year have been used to construct a picnic pavilion at the Telegraph Road Picnic Area. This type of gathering place is popular with park visitors. It is available by reservation for an \$80.00 user fee.

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Environmental Management In The Park

Prince William Forest Park takes pride in its designation as a Center for Environmental Innovation. Its mission requires that it make every effort to demonstrate a commitment to environmental compliance, education, and stewardship. Environmental leadership is defined by actions that implement sustainable practices in all aspects of park operations and communicates these practices to its visitors, partners, and neighbors.

This past year has seen many more 'green' practices within the park. Many older lighting and plumbing fixtures were replaced with more energy-efficient and water-saving models. Doing this not only reduces the park's environmental impacts, but also stretches a tight budget. Carpet made from recycled materials has been installed at the park's visitor center. The new accessible trail to the Oak Ridge Campground amphitheater was constructed with a sustainable, all-natural alternative to asphalt. Park vehicles and equipment use recycled oil, and many use alternative fuels. The park is a designated Trash-Free Park, and 'take home' bags as well as recycling containers have been placed throughout the park. Travel Trailer Village, the park's concession-operated RV campground, also encourages recycling and sustainable practices. Last but not least, park lands are maintained and restored through ecologically protective strategies, such as integrated pest management, exotic species removal, and prevention of damaging visitor activities.

Preserving and maintaining this earth's precious resources is the challenge of the 21st century. According to Dr. Peter Raven, "We're living in a time when our actions will make more difference than any other actions in the future or any other actions in the past."



Beavers, whose luxurious fur is prized by hatmakers, were once hunted to extinction within the area that is now the park. Skillful engineers of ponds that provide homes and food for many species, they were reintroduced to Quantico Creek in the 1950s.

The National Park Service Mission

"[T]o promote and regulate the use of the national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the "Organic Act", which created the National Park Service (NPS), a new federal bureau within the Department of the Interior. The NPS was to be responsible for protecting both the 40 national parks and monuments then in existence and those yet to be established.

Today, the National Park System of the United States comprises 384 areas in nearly every state and the District of Columbia, plus the territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Saipan, and the Virgin Islands – a total of more than 83 million acres. These areas are of such national significance as to justify special recognition and protection in accordance with various acts of Congress. Prince William Forest Park became a unit of the NPS in 1936.

The NPS still strives to meet its original goals, while filling many other roles as well: guardian of our diverse cultural and recreational resources; environmental advocate; world leader in the parks and preservation community; and cooperates with federal, state, and local partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Calling All Campers... Calling All Campers...

National parks are here for you to enjoy, so come take advantage of them! From isolated back-country tent sites to a modern RV and travel trailer village, Prince William Forest Park offers a full range of camping. In this issue, we highlight cabin camping opportunities.

Prince William Forest Park administers five rustic cabin retreats, which we refer to as cabin camps. Each cabin camp is composed of groups of small yet attractive wooden structures, all built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s (see article p. 4). Four camps (Camp Goodwill, Camp Mawavi, Camp Pleasant, and Camp Orenda) are on the National Register of Historic Places. Camp Happyland, our largest camp, which has an outdoor pavilion and heated dormitories in addition to cabins, is open all year. The other four cabin camps are available from May through October.

Capacities for group camps range from 60 to 200 campers. Types of groups accommodated include: youth, scouts, church retreats, family reunions, theater groups, weddings, and many others.

Each camp has a central dining hall, which features a commercial-sized oven, refrigerator, and freezer; spacious countertops; as well as a large dining area. Sleeping cabins are equipped with sturdy single cots and mattresses. Showers and flush toilets are located in the center of each camp.

Rates vary from \$150 to \$325 per night, depending on camp size.



Rustic cabins at Camp Mawavi offer organized groups of up to 200 a delightful retreat from congestion and other urban cares from May through October.

There is a non-refundable \$25 processing fee. Reservations are taken based on the following schedule:

Spring/Summer (May-August) camping at all camps – applications accepted October 1 – December 1

Fall (September-October) camping at all camps – applications accepted March 1 – May 1

Winter (November-April) camping at Camp Happyland – applications accepted first-come, first-served

Priority placement is given to those groups who apply before deadline dates and who request lengthier stays and multiple camps. As some dates may not be reserved during their regular application period, you may inquire after a deadline to find out what still may be available.

For families wishing to rent only one or two cabins (rather than an entire camp) the park also rents individual cabins. Such cabins have cots to sleep 4, 6, or 10 persons. Each cabin has a ceiling

fan and its own outdoor picnic table. Cooking is done on the grill outside of each cabin. Showers and flush toilets are centrally located, as is a children's playground. Rental prices per night are: \$30 for a 4-person cabin; \$40 for a 6-person cabin; and \$50 for a 10-person cabin. Family cabin camping is available May-October, and we begin taking reservations in March.

For more information, please contact our Cabin Camp Coordinator at 703-221-5843.

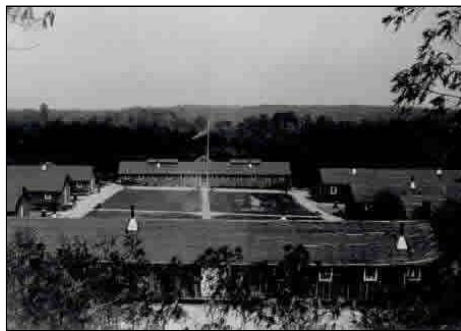


Great Deeds in The Great Depression: The Civilian Conservation Corps

In the first three years of the Great Depression, the unemployment rate in this country rose from slightly over three percent to a crushing 25 percent.

Unemployment among our nation's young adults was even higher. Many of those who were employed had only part-time jobs.

During his campaign for the presidency in 1932, Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) offered a solution to the crisis, which he called the New Deal. The Emergency Conservation Act (ECA), included the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Introduced as Senate Bill 598 on March 27, 1933, the measure passed quickly through both houses of Congress. FDR signed the ECA into law on March 31, 1933. The speed with which the plan moved from proposal to authorization and implementation was called a miracle of cooperation among all branches and agencies of the federal government. It was a mobilization of men, materials and transportation on a scale never before known in peacetime. The CCC inducted its first enrollee on April 7, 1933 – just 37 days after FDR's inauguration.

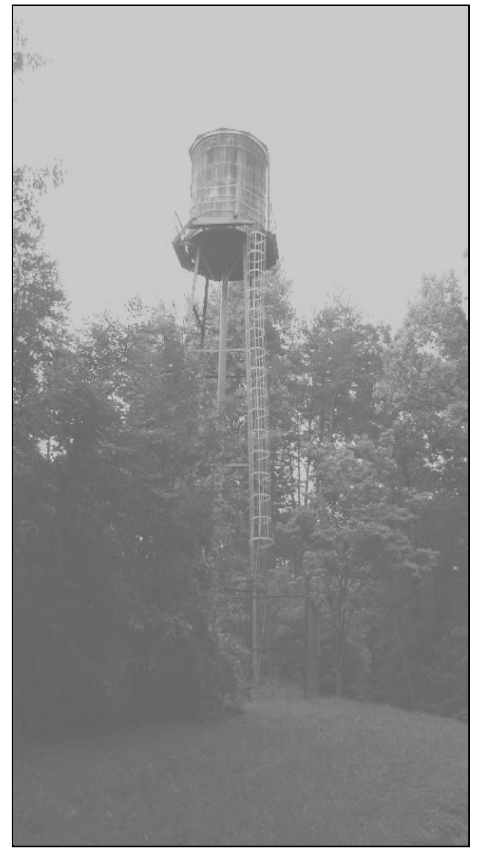


Archive photo of Camp 1374, whose CCC residents built part of what is now Prince William Forest Park.

The purpose of the CCC was both to reduce unemployment and to promote soil and natural resource conservation. It was administered by a cooperative effort among the U.S. Departments of Labor, War, Agriculture and Interior. The Labor Department recruited men in each state, while the U.S. Army was responsible for conduct and care of enrollees. During the workday, the Agriculture and Interior Departments directed the men.

To be eligible for the CCC, one had to be an unmarried man between the ages of 18 and 25. CCC enrollees were chosen according to a quota system based on state population. Applicants enrolled for a six month commitment, and they could re-enroll once their first six months were complete. Enrollees received one dollar per day, plus room, board, and the opportunity for education. Everyone was required to send home \$25.00 of his pay each month to help his family. This money made a significant impact on family incomes, and thus helped lift the Great Depression.

The CCC developed and improved four types of facilities: roadside parks, national parks and monuments, state scenic areas, and vacation camps near a city. This last category, intended as a model for states and counties to follow, was called Recreational Demonstration Areas (RDAs). Criteria for potential RDAs included: an area of 2,000 to 10,000 acres; proximity to a population center of at least 300,000 persons (less than 50 miles -- a half-day



Wooden water towers, such as this one at Cabin Camp 5, were built by the the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

round-trip via the cars and roads of the 1930's); an abundance of water and building material; and an interesting environment.

Some 46 RDAs were created in 24 states. Among them was what is now Prince William Forest Park, first opened in 1936 as the Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area. Along with Catoctin Mountain Park, Prince William Forest Park eventually became a unit of the National Park Service.

At Prince William Forest Park, the CCC built five complexes of warm-season cabins, three lakes and dams, and a system of trails and roads. The men worked without many of the power tools available today. They milled lumber from trees found growing on-site.

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

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WILDLIFE ABUNDANCE in Prince William Forest Park. (top photo) This eastern box turtle is much older than you might think! By counting the growth "rings" on her shell, one can see she is well over 60 years old. (bottom photo) The camouflage patterns on its skin help this leopard frog blend in with the plants in its creekside habitat. Never more than a few hops and a splash from safety, its presence indicates the water quality of Quantico Creek is very good.



Cascading water along Quantico Creek as seen from the South Valley Trail

Friends of Prince William Forest Park

The Friends of Prince William Forest Park is a non-profit organization formed in 1989. They have a web site at <<http://www.bmsi.com/fpwfp/index.html>>

Purposes of the Friends include:

- Preservation and enhancement of the park's natural and cultural resources
- Monitor any actions that affect the park and its ecosystem
- Provide a citizens forum regarding decisions that affect the park

Concerns of the Friends include:

- Protection of the Quantico Creek watershed and other watersheds within the park's boundaries
- Preservation of the region's piedmont ecosystem
- Preservation of the cabin camps built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, which are on the National Register of Historic Places
- Preservation of the 40+ cemetery sites within the park
- Preservation of those endangered plant and animal species found within the park's boundaries
- Protection of the park from encroaching development
- All local, state, and federal actions that may have an effect on the park or its boundaries

Meetings ~ The Friends hold their meetings at the park's visitors center. They feature informative and interesting programs, which often include outdoor activities. Prospective members and guests are welcome to attend. Please inquire at the visitors center for the date and time of the next meeting.

Membership ~ The Friends offer several levels of membership. Memberships for individuals and families include a yearly pass to Prince William Forest Park. People of all backgrounds are encouraged to join. Membership applications are available at the visitors center or online at <<http://www.bmsi.com/fpwfp/join.html>>



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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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The Civilian Conservation Corps

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Over 4,500 CCC camps were established -- at least one in every state, including Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Nationwide, the CCC built over 63 thousand buildings, restored nearly four thousand historical structures, and developed over eight hundred state parks. They planted trees to arrest soil erosion on more than 20 million acres, and they enhanced nearly seven thousand miles of wildlife habitat along streams. They built almost 47 thousand foot bridges and well over 38 thousand vehicle bridges. They installed over five thousand miles of water supply systems, including over eight thousand wells and pump houses. Other achievements include over

four hundred thousand signs, markers, and monuments, over 28 thousand miles of foot and horse trails, and over three thousand fire lookouts. This is only a partial listing of what they accomplished!

The legacy of the CCC is still with us in many areas throughout our country. In our national parks and forests, they built many of the trails, campgrounds, bridges, buildings, and cabins in use today. The men gained a salary during extremely hard times, but also an education and a chance to learn a skilled trade and grow while helping their country. Their legacy lives on through the continued use of their works.